

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 13, 18 and 24 have been amended. Claims 26-30 are newly presented by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objection

Claim 11 is objected to because of a minor informality. Specifically, the Examiner notes that the claim ends in a comma.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct the minor informality. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-19 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Beaudoin et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0112958, hereinafter "Beaudoin").

Applicant respectfully submits that Beaudoin fails to teach or suggest each feature of the claims. For example, claim 1, as amended, recites an active database that is accessible for providing information related to the topology of the network in a READ only mode.

Beaudoin relates to a network management tool. Referring to Fig. 1, the network management tool 10 is coupled to a global database 5, and a local database 6. The global database 5 is connected a data collector 4. The data collector 4

collects information sets 16 concerning the devices and links in the network layout.

(Paragraph 29.) The global database 5 receives and stores information sets 16 from the data collector 4. (Paragraph 30.) The information sets 16 represent a substantially real time status of the devices and links in the network layout.

(Paragraph 30.) The local database 6 receives and stores portions of the information set 16 corresponding to a user selected overlay information subset, or a snapshot of the information set 16 in the global database 5. (Paragraph 32.)

In Beaudoin, the global database 5 is accessible for receiving and storing information about the network layout from the data collector 4; and the local database 6 is accessible for receiving and storing information about the network layout from the global database 5.

In contrast, claim 1 recites an active database that is accessible for providing information related to the topology of the network in a READ only mode.

Since neither the global database 5 nor the local database 6 in Beaudoin is inaccessible for updates of the information about the network layout, neither of them can be considered as corresponding to the active database, as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Such an active database is selected to be a database which operates in a READ only mode.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2-3 and 5-8 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 1. Claims 18-19 and 21-25 are patentable for reasons analogous to those submitted for claim 1.

With regard to claim 9, the claim recites exchanging connections of the working and active databases.

In contrast, in Beaudoin, the connections of the global database 5 and the local database 6 are static, and not exchangeable. Therefore, Beaudoin fails to teach or suggest exchanging connections of the working and active databases, as recited in claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, claim 9 is patentable. Claims 10-12 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 9. Claims 13-14 and 16-17 are patentable for reasons analogous to those submitted for claim 9. Specifically, Beaudoin fails to teach or suggest connecting clients to a second database containing a topology of the network, and connecting the clients to the first database after the means for discovering updates the topology of the network, as recited in claim 13.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Beaudoin and Galand et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,212, hereinafter "Galand")

Claims 4, 15 and 20 are patentable at least because of their respective dependency and because Galand fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Beaudoin.

New Claims

Claims 26-30 are added to more particularly describe the invention. Support for claims 26 and 29 can be found at least in page 4, the first paragraph of the

specification. Support for claims 27, 28 and 30 can be found at least in page 6, line 1 - page 7, line 4 of the specification, and Figs. 3A-3C.

C O N C L U S I O N

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of present application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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